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Town of Palm Beach United Way Launches Nepal Recovery Fund with \$100,000 Matching Gift

The Cathleen McFarlane Foundation has offered a dollar-for-dollar matching gift

For Immediate Release: September 1, 2026

Contact: Aleese Grittner, 561-655-1919 or aleesegrittner@palmbeachunitedway.org

The Town of Palm Beach United Way has launched a **Nepal Recovery Fund** to support emergency relief efforts in communities devastated by catastrophic flooding and an avalanche in Nepal. To kick-start the fund, the **Cathleen McFarlane Foundation** has generously committed a \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching gift.

On August 26, a massive glacial collapse in the Himalayas triggered an avalanche of rock and ice, sending destructive floods and mudslides through communities along the Nepal-China border. More than 1,000 people have died and approximately 4,000 remain missing, while homes, roads, bridges, power facilities and entire communities have been destroyed. Rescue and relief efforts continue, particularly in remote areas that remain difficult to reach.

"Our Foundation has always demonstrated extraordinary compassion for people and animals who are suffering and for those whose circumstances have left them without the resources to help themselves," said **Jeff Smith, Director of the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation**. "I cannot imagine people more desperately in need of that compassion at this moment than the families in Nepal who have suddenly been left homeless, injured, grieving and without even the basic necessities of life. We are proud for the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation to lead this effort and, through the matching challenge, encourage the generosity of others in Palm Beach to multiply its impact."

Funds raised through the Nepal Recovery Fund will be distributed to trusted emergency relief organizations with teams actively responding on the ground, including Americares, Convoy of Hope, Global Empowerment Mission and World Central Kitchen. These organizations are providing critical assistance including food, clean water, medical care, emergency supplies, shelter and other essential resources to communities affected by the disaster.

"Seeing the devastation and loss in Nepal is heartbreaking, and our thoughts are with the families and communities facing unimaginable hardship," said **Kimberly Goodwin, General Campaign Chair of the Town of Palm Beach United Way**. "Through the Nepal Recovery Fund, our community has an opportunity to turn compassion into action and provide meaningful support to people who urgently need it. We invite everyone who is able to join us in giving—and with a generous \$100,000 matching gift from the Cathleen McFarlane Foundation, every dollar can make an even greater difference."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way has raised funds for similar natural disasters in the past, including hurricanes, the Los Angeles County wildfires and the Texas flooding.

To donate to the Nepal Recovery Fund, visit www.palmbeachunitedway.org. Donors can also call 561-655-1919 or send a check to Town of Palm Beach United Way with "Nepal Fund" in the memo. Donations are tax-deductible, and 100% will go directly to relief efforts supporting communities affected by the disaster.

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